

Message

## ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY REPORT

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Report Highlights

**Bloomberg  
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## Highlights

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### LEADING THE NEWS

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#### [Enbridge Oil Pipeline Plans Scrutinized by Sixth Circuit Judges](#)

By Ellen M. Gilmer

A panel of federal judges appeared reluctant Thursday to force an environmental review of oil spill response plans for Enbridge Inc.'s Line 5 pipeline.

#### [Small Coal-Refuse Power Plants' Emissions Rule Eased by EPA](#)

By Stephen Lee

Small plants that burn coal refuse that mining companies discarded decades ago got a lifeline Thursday as the EPA finalized a rule that allowed them to emit a greater amount of acid gases.

#### [Judge, Georgia County OK Medical Sterilizer Use in Pandemic \(1\)](#)

By Amena H. Saiyid

A federal judge says a medical sterilizer company in suburban Atlanta can continue indefinitely to use carcinogenic ethylene oxide to clean critically needed medical equipment.

### Carper Asks White House to Explain Alleged Comment Back Channel

By Stephen Lee

A White House agency's alleged use of an email to collect public comments on a major environmental proposal violates the law, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee's top Democrat said Thursday.

### California Attorney General Takes Aim at EPA Enforcement Plan

By Ellen M. Gilmer

California's top legal official is calling on the EPA to reconsider its decision to relax some enforcement of federal pollution laws during the coronavirus pandemic.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

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### Scientists Worry Agency Plan to Prevent Fires Could Do Opposite

By Bobby Magill

Scientists say the Trump administration's proposed program to cut down trees to gain an upper hand over wildfire and protect the sage-grouse bird may in fact do the opposite: increase the wildfire threat and risk ecosystem "collapse."

### Court Refuses to Speed Elephant Trophy Permits, Citing Covid-19

By Maya Earls

An order forcing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to expedite the processing of elephant trophy import permit applications amid the Covid-19 pandemic

would be "unwise" and "not in the public interest," a Washington federal court ruled Thursday.

## **AIR, WATER, AND WASTE**

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### **EPA Sued Over Move to Exempt Texas From Air Emissions Rule**

By Maya Earls

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's decision to exempt Texas from a 2015 rule limiting emissions during startups, shutdowns, and malfunctions will allow facilities to release pollution that puts public health at risk, according to a coalition of environmental and community groups.

## **COURTS AND LAW**

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### **Paul Weiss Launches a Corporate Sustainability Practice**

By Elizabeth Olson

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison has created a new practice group to help corporate boards and executives navigate the legal, business and political aspects of developing and implementing sustainability initiatives, the firm said late Wednesday.

## **ENERGY**

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### **U.S. Energy Chief Says Oil Storage Running Out 'Very Very Fast'**

By Stephen Cunningham

Oil storage options are becoming limited and producers are set to cut back production as demand falls, U.S. Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette said.

### **Occidental Seeking Federal Lifeline For U.S. Oil Industry (1)**

By Rachel Adams-Heard and Kevin Crowley

Occidental Petroleum Corp. wants U.S. government financial aid for the oil industry even as the biggest producer of Permian Basin crude urges Texas regulators not to interfere with market forces.

## Republican Senators Want to Help Coal Get U.S. Bailout Money

### (1)

By Akshat Rath

A group of powerful Republican senators wants to make sure the bailout program being administered by BlackRock Inc. on behalf of the federal government won't leave fossil-fuel companies behind.

## California Approves More Energy Rules Shunning Natural Gas

By Emily C. Dooley

A growing number of California cities and towns are strengthening their building codes to require all-electric buildings, green roofs, solar power, and other measures to reduce carbon emissions.

## California Oil Field's Wells Won't Face Environmental Review

By Maeve Allsup

A California appeals court rejected challenges to 213 permits for wells in a California oil field, ruling that the permits issued by the California Department of Conservation were exempt from the state's Environmental Quality Act.

## Land Agency Backs Down From Million-Acre Colorado Oil Lease Plan

By Maya Earls

The Bureau of Land Management wants to step back from its plan to sell oil and gas leases on more than one million acres of federally managed land in Colorado in order to conduct additional environmental analysis, according to a new federal court filing.

## Tesoro Oil Refinery Project Withstands Environmental Challenge

By Maeve Allsup

Tesoro Refining and Marketing Company LLC may proceed with a project to integrate two oil refining facilities near Los Angeles, after a California appeals court rejected a challenge to state regulators' determination that the project would reduce air pollution.

## INSIGHT

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### INSIGHT: EPA Moves Toward Setting Drinking Water PFAS Health Standard

Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr attorneys examine the current status of federal drinking water protections after the recent update to the Environmental Protection Agency's PFAS Action Plan. They also look at state regulations and what industries and property owners that use significant amounts of PFAS chemicals should do in advance of pending regulatory changes.

### INSIGHT: Effective Virtual Mediation During the Coronavirus Crisis

Virtual mediations allow clients to resolve disputes during the coronavirus pandemic, offering an acceptable alternative to in-person mediation. Hon. Suzanne Segal, a retired magistrate judge, shares and discusses considerations to enhance their effectiveness.

## AROUND THE GLOBE

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### Airline Bid to Cut Pollution Cost May Wipe Out Carbon Demand (3)

By Mathew Carr

Airlines are seeking to change the rules of a global system that's set to limit their pollution starting next year.

### Wuhan Is Returning to Life. So Are Its Disputed Wet Markets

By Bloomberg News

Cars lined up this week at the main entrance to the Baishazhou wet market, one of the biggest in Wuhan, which is buzzing again. The Chinese city where the coronavirus first emerged has stirred back to life following a lockdown lasting for months.

### Renewable Energy Surged to Record in Europe's Power Mix

By Ewa Krukowska, William Mathis and Jeremy Hodges

Energy produced from renewable sources rose to a record in the European Union last winter, pushing coal out as the bloc aims to reach an unprecedented goal of being carbon neutral by the middle of the century.

## Pollution Costs Surge in Europe on Talk of Loosening Lockdowns

By William Mathis and Mathew Carr

The cost of pollution is headed for its biggest weekly gain in more than two years in Europe on optimism that the economy is preparing to snap back from coronavirus-imposed lockdowns.

## South Africa to Disclose Carbon Emissions from Sasol, Anglo (1)

By Antony Sguazzin

South Africa's Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries has ordered her department to disclose the greenhouse-gas emissions of 16 of the country's biggest polluters.

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